

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A recombinant microorganism being capable of producing vitamin B6, wherein said microorganism carries extra genes which code for an enzyme combination selected from:

- i) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase and 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase;
- ii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase; and
- iii) erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase, 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase and pyridoxol 5'-phosphate synthase.

Claim 2. (Original) The microorganism according to claim 1, wherein said microorganism belongs to the genus *Escherichia*.

Claim 3. (Original) A process for preparing vitamin B6 comprising the steps of:

- i) culturing the recombinant microorganism of claim 1 in a fermentation broth; and
- ii) separating the resulting vitamin B6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 4. (Original) A process for preparing vitamin B6 comprising the steps of:

- i) culturing a recombinant microorganism carrying an extra gene encoding erythrose 4-phosphate dehydrogenase in expressible form, in a fermentation broth; and
- ii) separating the resulting vitamin B6 from the fermentation broth.

Claim 5. (Original) The process according to claim 4, wherein said microorganism belongs to the genus *Escherichia*.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 3 to 5~~, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 7. (New) The process according to claim 4, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.

Claim 8. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein said microorganism is cultured in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value in the range of about 5.0 to 9.0, at a temperature in the range of from 10°C to 40°C, and for 1 day to 7 days under aerobic conditions.